

## FIVE YEARS LATER, REALIGNMENT WORKS!

The 2002 realignment of the NFL into eight divisions of four teams each has proven its efficacy. In its first five years, 27 of the 32 NFL teams have qualified for the playoffs at least once. In that time, 22 different teams have won division titles.

"What was important for the league as far as realignment was to keep as many of the division rivalries in place that we could," says **JEFF FISHER**, head coach of the Tennessee Titans and co-chairman of the NFL Competition Committee. "Most of those historic rivalries still exist, which is important to the fans. Additionally, we were able to establish new rivalries. We feel like the playoff format is working. Every year we have new teams in the playoffs and championship games. The games and the schedules are as competitive as they've ever been."

Following are the teams that have qualified for the playoffs and won their divisions in realignment:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PLAYOFF BERTHS</u>	<u>DIVISION TITLES</u>
Indianapolis	5	4
New England	4	4
Philadelphia	4	4
Seattle	4	3
Green Bay	3	3
Pittsburgh	3	2
Denver	3	1
Chicago	2	2
Tampa Bay	2	2
Atlanta	2	1
Carolina	2	1
New York Giants	3	1
New York Jets	3	1
Baltimore	2	2
San Diego	2	2
Kansas City	2	1
St. Louis	2	1
Tennessee	2	1
Dallas	2	0
Cincinnati	1	1
New Orleans	1	1
Oakland	1	1
San Francisco	1	1
Cleveland	1	0
Jacksonville	1	0
Minnesota	1	0
Washington	1	0

## BEST NFL RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

In the era of free agency, having continuity in your organization at the coaching level is a key ingredient to success on the field.

In the past 10 years, five NFL teams have played at a .600 level or close to it -- led by the **DENVER BRONCOS** and **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** at a .638 winning percentage. Those five teams have combined for 31 playoff and eight Super Bowl appearances. Three of the five clubs have had the same head coach for four or more years, including the second-longest tenured head coach in the league in Denver's **MIKE SHANAHAN** (12 years; Tennessee's **JEFF FISHER**, 13)

"Obviously he has a great track record," Broncos fullback **KYLE JOHNSON** says of Shanahan. "You're talking about, in all likelihood, a Hall of Fame coach when he retires. The organization and players benefit from having a consistent guy who is really good at his job."

The top five regular season records of the past 10 years (1997-06):

<b>Team</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Pct.</b>	<b>Playoff Berths</b>	<b>Super Bowl Berths</b>
Denver	102	58	0	.638	6	2
New England	102	58	0	.638	7	3
Green Bay	97	63	0	.606	6	1
Pittsburgh	96	63	1	.604	5	1
Indianapolis	95	65	0	.594	7	1